

RESTRICTED

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

19 February 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 210)

THRU : Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch.

SUBJECT : Transportation of prisoners of war under improper conditions from Davao Penal Colony, Mindanao, P.I. to Manila, P.I. from June 6 to June 26, 1944.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

Sometime during the first week in June, 1944 between 1,200 and 1,500 American prisoners of war were transported by truck from the Davao Penal Colony to Davao City. The men were tied together by rope around their waists and crowded into trucks. They were blindfolded and required to keep their hands in view. Many of the sick prisoners and even amputees on crutches were required to stand during the 25-mile-trip. If it was thought that any of the men were peeking, they were struck with clubs or rifle butts by the guards. Many were suffering from beri-beri and during the rough trip their flesh was rubbed raw against the sides of the trucks. Some men fainted and were held up only by the rope, tying the prisoners together, and this in turn, cut off the circulation of blood of the prisoners near by. (R 1, 6, 11, 17, 26, 27, 30, 37, 44). When they arrived in the port at Davao, the men were loaded into two holds of a small unmarked freight ship that had not been cleaned since carrying a cargo of coal. The ship stayed in the harbor a few days and then sailed with a convoy. The more seriously ill were in one hold where there was room for them to lie down in a crowded condition. The ship traveled close to the shore during the day and anchored at night. The prisoners were allowed a free run of the ship until they were near Zamboanga where a Lt. Colonel John MAGEE and a Lt. ILIS escaped over the side of the ship. For the remaining days of the trip the prisoners were required to stay in the hold. There was not enough room for them to lie down and it was necessary for them to sleep in shifts. The only latrine facilities were a few 5-gallon cans that were lowered into the hold. As many of the men were suffering from dysentery and diarrhea they often were forced to relieve themselves before these latrine cans became available. The hatches were kept almost completely covered. The men never had enough water to drink and what was provided was not completely distilled. The temperature of the hold was estimated at 120 to 125 degrees Fahrenheit and many suffered from heat prostration. The food consisted of small amount of rice and thin soup. Some of the soup had been made from spoiled meat which probably aggravated the sickened condition of the men. After the escape of the two officers, the rations were decreased so that it was estimated that the Americans received about one-sixth of the amount received by the Japanese (R 2, 7, 11, 12, 13, 17, 20, 23, 27, 30, 33, 37, 45, 46, 47, 51, 54).

Around 12 or 14 June 1944, the ship arrived at Cebu where the men were all put ashore. Many of them had to be carried because of their weakened condition. The seriously ill were crowded into a barracks and the others were put into a small open area inside an old Spanish fort believed to have been called Fort San Pedro. It rained part of the time and the prisoners were given no shelter either day or night. There were no latrine facilities and the men had to designate latrine areas on the open ground (R 2, 13, 27, 47, 54).

After two or three days at Cebu, the prisoners were loaded into the holds of another larger unmarked former coal ship. It was infested with rats and mice. Though this ship was larger, they were crowded worse than before. The physical condition of the men was worse as they were weak and sick from malnutrition. Some of the men were unable to stand, their nerves were shattered and their rations were so small that fist-fights occurred over a spoonful of rice. The men were not allowed on deck. The sanitary facilities again consisted of 5-gallon cans and because of illness many of the men were unable to control their bowels. The ventilation, food and sanitary conditions on this ship were in general the same as on the previous ship. However, some medical supplies were finally given to American medical officers. About 24 June 1944, they arrived in Manila Bay. On 26 June 1944, Lt. William EDEN of Minneapolis, Minnesota, died. This is the only death recorded during the voyage. The men disembarked at Pier 7. The litter patients were taken by truck to Old Bilibid Prison in Manila, while the others were compelled to walk through the streets to Bilibid (R 2, 3, 7, 14, 17, 20, 27, 30, 37, 54, 55). Later, most of the men were sent to the Cabanatuan Prison Camp. Bilibid and Cabanatuan are the subjects of separate reports.

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No. 1

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太平洋方面米國陸軍總司令部戦犯課

一九四四年昭和三十九年二月十九日

覺書宛先 檢察部 (報告書第二一。號)

經由 戦犯課 庶務課

標題 一九四四年昭和三十九年六月六日より六月二

十六日迄の間ニ於テ比律賓群島「ミダオ」州
「ダバオ」流刑地ヨリ同群島「マニラ」間ニ於テ
不適當ナル状態下ニ行ハレシ俘虜ノ輸送

二、證據ノ要畧

一九四四年昭和三十九年六月、第一週中、某日千
二〇〇名乃至千五百名、米國人俘虜が「ダバオ」流刑地
カラ「ダバオ」市ニ貨物自動車デ運送サレタ。其ノ者
達ハ腰ノ周リヲ互ニ繩デ結び付ケラレテ、多勢貨物
自動車ニ積み込マレタ。彼等ハ目隠ラサシ、手ハ眼
ノ付ク所ニ出シテ置ク様ニ言ハレタ。病氣ニ罹ツテ
居ル俘虜ノ多數、又足ヲ切断シテ松葉杖ヲツク者
マデモガ、此ノ二十五哩輸送ノ間中、立ツテ居ル様ニト
言ハレタ。誰デモ隙見ヲシタト思ハレル様ナ事ヲ
スルト棍棒カ銃ノ名屍デ衛兵ニ叩カレタ。多數
ノ者ガ脚氣ノ患者デ、此ノ凹凸道ノ行程中、彼
等ノ肉ハ自動車ノ横板ニアタツテ擦リ剥ケ、中ニハ
氣絶シタ者モアリ、俘虜達ヲ一緒ニ縛ツタ繩デ

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No. 2

ヤット支ヘラレテ耳タガ、此レが今度ハ其ノ者ノ近所
ノ俘虜ノ血液ノ循環ヲ止メタノデアツタ（Rニ六二、
一七、二六、二七、三〇、三七、四四）。

彼等ガ「ダバオ」ノ港ニ到着スルト、兵隊ハ石炭
ヲ積ンデ来テ、マダ其ノ跡ヲ清掃シナイ小サナ船名ヲ音
イテナイ荷物船ノニツノ船艙ニ詰込メタ。此ノ船、港
ニ數日碇泊シテ、ソレカラ一隻ノ護送船ト一緒ニ出帆シ
タ。非常ニ重惡ノ者ハ混雜ハシテ居ルガ寢ル餘地ノ
アル他ノ船艙ニ入レラレテ耳タ。船ハ晝間ハ海岸ニ
極ク接近シタ處ヲ航行シ、夜ハ投錨シタ。「ザンボ
アング」ノ附近ニ来ル迄ハ、俘虜ハ船ノ中ヲ自由ニ歩
ク事ヲ許サレタガ、其處デ「ジョシ・マギー」中佐ト「
ウィリス」中尉トガ、此ノ船ノ舷側カラ逃走シタ。ソ
レ以後ノ航海ノ間、俘虜ハ船艙カラ出ル事ヲ禁ジ
ラレタ。横ニナルダケノ餘地ガナカツタノデ交代デ寢
ナケレバナラナカツタ。共同便所トシテハ、五「ガロン」罐
ガ數箇船艙ニ下サレテ居ルダゲダツタ。多數ノ者ガ赤
痢ヲ下痢ヲ患ツテ居タノデ、此ノ便所ガ使ヘル様ニナル
前ニ洩シテシマフ事ガヨクアツタ。艙口ハ完全ニト云ツテ
ヨイ位閉ザサレテ居タ。飲水ガ充分ニアツタ事ハナク、而
モ支給サレル水ハ完全ニ蒸溜シタモノデハナカツタ。船艙
内ノ溫度ハ、華氏、百二十度乃至百三十五度位デ、暑サ
ニ負ケテ身体ヲ害シタ者ガ多數居タ。食事ハ少量
ノ米ト薄イ「スープ」デアツタ。「スープ」ノ中ニハ惡クナ

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ツタ肉デ作ツタモノモアリ、之ガ人々ノ病狀ヲ一層悪クシ
タト思フ。二名、將校ガ逃走シテカラ後ハ、食物、量
ガ少ナクナリ、米國人ハ日本人ガ支給サレル分量、六
分ノ一程ヲ受ケテ居タト推定サレテ耳タ (Rニ七、二、
二、一三、一七、二〇、二三、二七、三〇、三三、三七、四五、四六、
四七、五一、五四)。

一九四四年、昭和十九年六月十二日カ十四日頃ニ、其、船
ハ、セブシニ到着シ、其處デ全部上陸シタ。多數、
者ハ身体ガ弱ツテ居タタメニ搬送サレネバナラナカッ
タ。重病ハハ、バツク、中ニギツシリト入レラレ、其、
他ノ者ハ、サン・ペドロ、堡壘ト言ハレテ居タラシイ古
イ西班牙堡壘ノ内部ニ在ル建物ノナイ小地域ニ入
ラレタ。時折雨が降ツタガ、俘虜達ハ晝モ夜モ宿
リ場所ガナカッタ。便所ノ設備ガナカッタノデ、外ニ
便ラスル場所ヲ定メネバナラナカッタ (Rニ三、二七、
四七、五四)。

セブシニ二日カ三日居タ後、俘虜達ハ前ト異
ツタ前ノヨリ大キイガ同ジ様ニ船名ノイ石炭船ニ便
ツタ船ノ船艙ニ入レラレタ。野鼠、家鼠ガ多數居タ。
此ノ船ハ以前、船ヨリ大キカッタガ、以前ヨリ一層混雜
シテ居タ。皆ノ者ノ健康状態ハ身体ガ弱ツテ又營
業失調ニナツテ耳タノデ一層悪カッタ。或ル者ハ立ッ
テ居ル事モ出来ナカッタ。而シテ、彼等ノ神經ハソ

No. 3

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No. 4

コナレ、食物モ非常ニ少ナク、一匙ノ飯、爲ニ拳
骨デ殴リ合ガ起ツタ程ダツタ。甲板ニ出ル事ハ許
サレナカッタ。便所設備ハ又モ五「ガロン」罐デ出
来テ居リ、病氣ノ爲ニ多數ノ人ハ便ヲコラヘルコ
トガ出来ナカッタ。此ノ船、通風モ、食事モ、衛生
状態モ以前ノ船ト大体同様デアツタ。然シ或種
ノ醫藥ガ終リニハ米國、醫師ニ支給サレタ。一九
四四年一昭和十九年六月二十四日頃、マニラ灣ニ到着
シタ。一九四四年一昭和十九年六月二十六日ニ「ミネソ
タ」州「ミネアポリス」出身ノ「ウィリアム・ウエデン」
中尉ガ死亡シタ。此ガ本船海中ニ録セラレタ唯
一ノ死亡デアツタ。第七埠頭カラ上陸シタ。擔架
デ運ブ患者ハ「マニラ」市ノ「オールド・ビリビッド・
プリズン」ヘ貨物自動車デ連シテ行カレ、一方他
ノ者ハ「ビリビッド」迄街路ヲ歩イテ行カネバナラ
ナカッタ（Rニ三七、一四、一七、二〇、二七、三〇、三七、
五四、五五）。後ニ大部分ノ者ハ「カバナケアン・プ
リズン・キャンプ」ヘ遣ラレタ。「ビリビッド」及ビ「カバ
ナケアン」ハ別々ノ報告標題トナツテ平ル。